

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 136

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH (for himself and Mr. GOSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 to designate the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness and to amend the Everglades National Park Protection and Expansion Act of 1989 to designate the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS**

4 **AND ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER, EVER-**
5 **GLADES NATIONAL PARK.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Marjory Stoneman Douglas, through her
2 book, “The Everglades: River of Grass” (1947), de-
3 fined the Everglades for the American people and
4 for the world. Her book was the first to stimulate
5 widespread understanding of the Everglades eco-
6 system and ultimately served to awaken the desire to
7 restore its health.

8 (2) In her 106th year, Mrs. Douglas is the sole
9 surviving member of the original group of people
10 who devoted decades of selfless effort to establish
11 Everglades National Park.

12 (3) When the water supply and ecology of the
13 Everglades, both within and outside the park, be-
14 came threatened by drainage and development, Mrs.
15 Douglas dedicated the balance of her life to the de-
16 fense of the Everglades through extraordinary per-
17 sonal effort and by inspiring countless other people
18 to take action.

19 (4) For these and many other accomplishments,
20 the President awarded Mrs. Douglas the Medal of
21 Freedom on Earth Day, 1994.

1 (5) Ernest F. Coe (1886–1951) was a leader in
2 the creation of Everglades National Park. He orga-
3 nized the Tropic Everglades National Park Associa-
4 tion in 1928 and was widely regarded as the “Fa-
5 ther of Everglades National Park”.

6 (6) As a landscape architect, Mr. Coe’s vision
7 for the park recognized the need to protect south
8 Florida’s diverse wildlife and their habitats for fu-
9 ture generations. His original park proposal included
10 lands and waters subsequently protected within Ev-
11 erglades National Park, the Big Cypress National
12 Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine
13 Sanctuary.

14 (7) Mr. Coe’s leadership, selfless devotion, and
15 commitment to achieving this vision culminated in
16 the authorization of Everglades National Park by
17 Congress in 1934. Afterwards, Mr. Coe fought tire-
18 lessly and lobbied strenuously for establishment of
19 the park, finally realizing his dream in 1947. He ac-
20 complished much of this work at his own expense,
21 which dramatically demonstrated his commitment to
22 establishment of the park.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
24 commemorate the vision, leadership, and enduring con-
25 tributions of Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Ernest F.

1 Coe in the protection of the Everglades and the establish-
2 ment of Everglades National Park.

3 (c) MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS WILDERNESS.—

4 (1) REDESIGNATION.—Section 401(3) of the
5 National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public
6 Law 95–625; 92 Stat. 3490; 16 U.S.C. 1132 note)
7 is amended by striking out “to be known as the Ev-
8 erglades Wilderness” and inserting “to be known as
9 the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness to com-
10 memorate the vision and leadership shown by Mrs.
11 Douglas in the protection of the Everglades and the
12 establishment of Everglades National Park”.

13 (2) NOTICE OF REDESIGNATION.—As part of
14 the redesignation of the “Everglades Wilderness” as
15 the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness” under
16 paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall
17 provide such notification of the redesignation by
18 signs, materials, maps, markers, interpretive pro-
19 grams, and other means (including changes in exist-
20 ing signs, materials, maps, and markers) as will ade-
21 quately inform the public of the redesignation of the
22 wilderness area and the reasons therefor.

23 (3) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law,
24 regulation, document, record, map, or other paper of
25 the United States to the “Everglades Wilderness”

1 shall be considered to be a reference to “Marjory
2 Stoneman Douglas Wilderness”.

3 (d) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—

4 (1) DESIGNATION.—Section 103 of the Ever-
5 glades National Park Protection and Expansion Act
6 of 1989 (16 U.S.C. 410r-7) is amended by adding
7 at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(f) ERNEST F. COE VISITOR CENTER.—Upon com-
9 pletion of construction of the main visitor center facility
10 at the headquarters of Everglades National Park, the Sec-
11 retary of the Interior shall designate the visitor center fa-
12 cility as ‘The Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center’ to commemo-
13 rate the vision and leadership shown by Mr. Coe in the
14 establishment and protection of Everglades National
15 Park.”.

16 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (e)
17 of such section is amended by striking “VISITOR
18 CENTER” and inserting “MARJORY STONEMAN
19 DOUGLAS VISITOR CENTER”.

20 (3) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Subsection
21 (c)(2) of such section is amended by striking
22 “personnally-owned” and inserting “personally-
23 owned”.

○